



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

December 7, 2005

# News Release

## KENTUCKY SALES EXECUTIVE FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLATING EMBARGO ON IRAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein, Darryl W. Jackson, United States Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement, and Thomas Madigan, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, announced that Robert E. Quinn, 54, of Lexington, Kentucky, was found guilty today by a federal jury of one count of conspiring to violate the U.S. trade embargo against Iran and five counts of illegal exports to Iran. The Honorable John D. Bates is scheduled to sentence Quinn on February 23, 2006. He faces a likely range of 97 to 121 months in prison under the federal sentencing guidelines.

United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein stated, "This successful prosecution demonstrates that our office will vigorously enforce the trade embargo regulations that protect our national security, diplomatic and economic interests. Let today's verdict be a warning to those who would seek to profit from trade with embargoed countries."

Commerce Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Darryl W. Jackson stated, "The embargo on Iran is an important part of our Nation's foreign policy interests. We want to do all that we can to discourage Iran's sponsorship of international terrorism and active pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. We will continue to vigorously pursue cases like this one."

In April 2005, a federal grand jury in the District of Columbia returned a six-count indictment against Quinn, 54, and Michael H. Holland, also of Lexington, Kentucky, and Mohammed A. Sharbaf, of Iran, charging them with violating the United States embargo on trade with Iran. Quinn and Holland were sales executives employed by Clark Material Handling Corporation ("CMHC"), a Kentucky-based forklift truck manufacturer. Sharbaf is President and Managing Director of Sepahan Lifter, a forklift truck manufacturer in Esfahan, Iran.

The government's evidence at trial showed that, beginning in February 2003, Quinn, who served as the former Vice President of Global Parts Marketing for CMHC, agreed with Sharbaf to supply forklift and tow tractor parts to Sepahan Lifter. In order to circumvent the embargo, Quinn and Sharbaf arranged for the goods first to go to Sharp Line Trading, a broker in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, after which Sharp Line would immediately re export the parts to Sepahan Lifter in Iran. Khalid Mahmood, Sharp Line's president, previously pled guilty to related charges and testified for the government at trial. Between March 2003 and December 2003, Quinn directed five shipments of CMHC parts to Iran through Sharp Line in Dubai.

The jury acquitted co-defendant Michael Holland of all charges. Charges remain outstanding against the second codefendant, Mohammed A. Sharbaf.

Under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1706, and the Iranian Transaction Regulations, 50 C.F.R. Part 560, all exports to Iran of U.S.-origin commodities are prohibited absent authorization in the form of an export license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") of the Department of the Treasury. It is also unlawful to ship U.S. origin products to a third country and then re-export them to Iran without the necessary authorization from OFAC. These prohibitions have been in place since 1995.

In announcing today's verdict, U.S. Attorney Wainstein, Assistant Secretary Jackson, and Acting Special Agent in Charge Madigan praised the outstanding investigative work of OEE Special Agents Scott Douglas, Joel Christy, and David Nardella and ICE Special Agents Richard Reinhold, Mark Knoblock, and Susan Lavoie. They also praised Paralegal Specialists Eugene Lee, Cherell Lonon-Gerald, and Barbara Necastro and Legal Assistant Cheryl Simms. Lastly, they expressed appreciation to Assistant United States Attorneys Jay I. Bratt and Laura A. Ingersoll, who prosecuted the case.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*